

COVID crisis presented to push their Big Government agenda. So they decided to pass another ostensible COVID bill less than 3 months after the December bill and before a lot of money from the December bill had even been disbursed.

They gave \$129 billion to schools, even though schools had spent just a small fraction of the \$68 billion they had already been given.

They created a staggering \$350 billion slush fund for States, despite the fact that the majority of States already had the money that they needed to deal with the pandemic, and many, many States were operating in a surplus situation.

They extended enhanced unemployment benefits until September of 2021, despite the millions—literally millions—of available job openings; and they made part of the unemployment compensation tax-free, creating incentives for Americans to stay on unemployment instead of returning to work.

Among other things, they provided an additional \$21 billion in rental assistance, none of which has yet been needed.

In short, their so-called American Rescue Plan flooded the economy with a lot of unnecessary government money, and the results were predictable: inflation.

The definition of “inflation” is too many dollars chasing too few goods and services, and that is exactly the situation the Democrats created. They sent too many dollars into the economy, and the economy overheated as a result.

You don’t have to take my word for it. Here is what former Obama economic adviser Jason Furman had to say recently when discussing our current inflation problem:

The original sin was an oversized American Rescue Plan. It contributed to both higher output but also higher prices.

That was from Jason Furman, Obama’s economic adviser.

That quote from Mr. Furman appeared in a recent New York Times article that also noted:

But some economists, including veterans of previous Democratic administrations, say much of Mr. Biden’s inflation struggle is self-inflicted. Lawrence H. Summers is one of those who say the stimulus bill the president signed in March gave too much of a boost to consumer spending . . . Mr. Summers, who served in the Obama and Clinton administrations, says inflation now risks spiraling out of control and other Democratic economists agree there are risks.

So what are congressional Democrats doing in response? Well, they are planning to flood the economy with even more government dollars. That is right. Instead of keeping a sharp eye on government spending to make sure our inflation situation doesn’t get worse, Democrats are planning to double down on the strategy that got us into this position in the first place.

Democrats are trying to finalize a new—now it is \$1.75 trillion—tax-and-spending spree, the so-called Build

Back Better plan, on top, as I said, of the \$1.9 trillion spending spree from earlier this year. And I say \$1.75 trillion, but Democrats have only arrived at that number through a combination of shell games and budget gimmicks. The real cost of this proposal over 10 years is going to be way, way higher—way, way higher; some estimates in the \$4 trillion range.

So, once again, Democrats want to flood the economy with government dollars, including billions for such priorities as tree equity—tree equity—and environmental justice programs at well-funded colleges and universities. That is right—Ivy League schools that don’t have problems financially, where students pay tens of thousands of dollars in tuition every year, will get tax credits if they teach courses on environmental justice.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to complete my remarks before the vote begins.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am forcibly reminded that the definition of “insanity” is the doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. What exactly do Democrats think is going to happen to inflation if they pass this \$1.75 trillion legislation? Do they think that if one round of excessive government spending triggered inflation, another round of excessive government spending is going to cure it? Do they think that dumping more fuel into an already overheated economy is somehow going to put out the inflationary fire? If they do, they have got another think coming.

The only thing Democrats’ latest spending spree is going to do is make our inflation problem worse. We are already looking at serious inflation lasting well into next year. Add Democrats’ Build Back Better spending spree to the mix, and we could be looking at a very, very long period of inflated prices and reduced spending power for American families.

Democrats were warned that their March spending spree could spur inflation; they passed it anyway. So I don’t have a lot of hope that Democrats are going to heed concerns about inflation, even coming from their own economists, when it comes to their current tax-and-spending plan, but I and every other Republican will stand firm against this reckless tax-and-spending spree and will continue to urge our Democratic colleagues to rethink their spending agenda before inflation soars out of control and American families have to suffer the consequences.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 168, Jonathan Davidson, of Maryland, to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Christopher A. Coons, Ron Wyden, Margaret Wood Hassan, Edward J. Markey, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Angus S. King, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jonathan Davidson, of Maryland, to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 88, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 451 Ex.]

YEAS—88

Baldwin	Hagerty	Peters
Barrasso	Hassan	Portman
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Risch
Blunt	Hirono	Romney
Booker	Hoeven	Rosen
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Brown	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Kennedy	Shaheen
Carper	King	Sinema
Casey	Klobuchar	Smith
Cassidy	Lankford	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Sullivan
Coons	Lee	Tester
Cornyn	Lujan	Thune
Cortez Masto	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Toomey
Crapo	Markey	Van Hollen
Daines	McConnell	Warner
Duckworth	Menendez	Warnock
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Ernst	Moran	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	Young
Graham	Ossoff	
Grassley	Padilla	

NAYS—11

Blackburn	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Marshall	Shelby
Cotton	Paul	Tuberville
Cruz	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—1

Rounds

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 88, the nays are 11.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 170, Benjamin Harris, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Christopher A. Coons, Ron Wyden, Margaret Wood Hassan, Edward J. Markey, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Angus S. King, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Benjamin Harris, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 79, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 452 Ex.]

YEAS—79

Baldwin	Grassley	Portman
Barrasso	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Risch
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Romney
Blunt	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Brown	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Sinema
Casey	Leahy	Smith
Cassidy	Lee	Stabenow
Collins	Luján	Tester
Coons	Lummis	Thune
Cornyn	Manchin	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Cramer	McConnell	Warner
Crapo	Menendez	Warnock
Daines	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wicker
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Fischer	Ossoff	Young
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—20

Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeben	Scott (FL)
Braun	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Ernst	Moran	Tuberville
Hagerty	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Rounds

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 79, the nays are 20.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Benjamin Harris, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 337, Isobel Coleman, of New York, to be a Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Christopher A. Coons, Ron Wyden, Margaret Wood Hassan, Edward J. Markey, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Angus S. King, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Isobel Coleman, of New York, to be a Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 59, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 453 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Baldwin	Heinrich	Romney
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Sasse
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Burr	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Capito	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Luján	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Cassidy	Menendez	Toomey
Collins	Merkley	Van Hollen
Coons	Murkowski	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Padilla	Wicker
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hagerty	Reed	
Hassan		

NAYS—40

Barrasso	Cruz	Johnson
Blackburn	Daines	Kennedy
Blunt	Ernst	Lankford
Boozman	Fischer	Lee
Braun	Graham	Lummis
Cassidy	Grassley	Marshall
Cornyn	Hawley	McConnell
Cotton	Hoeben	Moran
Cramer	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Crapo	Inhofe	Portman

Risch
Rubio
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)

Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis

Tuberville
Young

NOT VOTING—1

Rounds

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 59, the nays are 40.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Isobel Coleman, of New York, to be a Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask consent to speak for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JONATHAN DAVIDSON

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I am coming to the floor to talk about a nominee that we have before us this afternoon, who is nominated by President Biden to be the Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury for Legislative Affairs.

He is a person who is well known to this Chamber. He spent roughly 20 years working in the Senate. He started out as Senator Paul Sarbanes' body man years and years and years ago and became chief of staff for Senator Sarbanes when Senator Sarbanes was the chair of the Banking Committee. He worked in the House for Representative Sarbanes, was chief counsel to Senator WARNER, and then came to my office and was my chief of staff.

His name is Jon Davidson, and he worked for the people of Colorado and for the country for about 10 years in that role. When he came over as my chief of staff, it was very shocking to me that he was willing to do it because he had a good job and he was doing really well for Senator WARNER. But it gave him the chance to run a Senate office, and he did an extraordinary job not just because of his understanding of policy and his understanding of politics—a lot of people have that around this place—but also his understanding of human nature and his belief that in all of us, even those of us who are Senators, there can be a gem of goodness in us to be found and to be brought along and to be grown. And that was true not just for me, but for the entire staff.

He was an incredible mentor to probably hundreds of people who worked for me over the years, both in the State of Colorado and in here. He was an extraordinary manager who led with integrity and discipline and drive.

And while I was extremely sorry to lose him, I wasn't at all surprised that President Biden and the Secretary of the Treasury wanted him at Treasury, where he could take what he had learned on Capitol Hill and apply it at